

REVISED SUBMISSION REGARDING THE NOMINAL GENUS
DIPLOSOMA MACDONALD, 1859 (ASCIDIACEA), AND
PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE DESIGNATION OF *LEPTOCLINUM*
FULGENS MILNE EDWARDS, 1841, AS TYPE SPECIES OF
LEPTOCLINUM MILNE EDWARDS, 1841. Z.N.(S.)1766

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In 1966 I submitted (Rowe, 1966b) a detailed proposal outlining a case for firstly, the suppression of the generic name *Leptoclinum* Milne Edwards, 1841 and secondly, the placing of the generic name *Diplosoma* MacDonald, 1859 (type species by monotypy *D. rayneri* MacDonald, 1859) and the specific name *listerianum* Milne Edwards (in the binomen *Leptoclinum listerianum*) on the Official List of Generic Names and of Specific Names in Zoology respectively. The case was presented because of confusion existing over the use of the generic names *Didemnum* Savigny, 1816, *Leptoclinum* Milne Edwards, 1841 and *Diplosoma* MacDonald, 1859, species described in the genus *Leptoclinum* being attributable to either *Diplosoma* or *Didemnum* (Rowe, 1966a & b). The argument followed the course that of six species originally described in the genus *Leptoclinum* by Milne Edwards, 1841, four species had subsequently been referred to the genus *Didemnum* by Hartmeyer, 1909; that of the remaining two species included in *Leptoclinum*, (since *gelatinosum* had been placed in the synonymy of *listerianum* by Lahille, 1890), Hartmeyer, 1909, had implied that by elimination *listerianum* would be the type species of *Leptoclinum*; that although Lahille, 1890, had considered *Diplosoma rayneri* both conspecific and congeneric with *listerianum*, referring *listerianum* then to the genus *Diplosoma*. I agreed with Hartmeyer who correctly treated *Diplosoma* as a junior synonym of *Leptoclinum*; that Hartmeyer later (1915) reversed this generic synonymy on the grounds of the greater usage of the name *Diplosoma*; that although the majority of authors subsequently adopted this attitude, others were divided in the use of the names *Diplosoma* and *Leptoclinum*, thus compounding a confused situation.

2. Subsequent to my submission Mather (= Kott), 1969, though supporting the case for the suppression of *Leptoclinum*, believed that I had argued for the validation of *L. listerianum* as the type species of *Diplosoma*. Indeed this was not the case. I proposed, since I was seeking only to validate the generic name *Diplosoma*, to suppress *Leptoclinum* but retain the species *listerianum*. In this event if the synonymy of *rayneri* with *listerianum* is accepted, (Dr Kott (= Mather) has recently accepted this synonymy (1981)) then *listerianum* becomes the valid name of the type species of *Diplosoma* provided *Leptoclinum* is suppressed. Such was the argument I put forward in reply to Dr Mather's comments (Rowe, 1971).

3. Following subsequent correspondence and advice from Mr R. V. Melville, an alternative proposal to solve the problem is now submitted which would reduce the genus *Leptoclinum* Milne Edwards, 1841, to the synonymy of *Didemnum* Savigny, 1816.

4. The genus *Didemnum* was described by Savigny, 1816, with two species *candidum* and *viscosum*, neither of which was designated as the type species by Savigny. Hartmeyer, 1909, was the first author who considered it appropriate to designate *candidum* as type species of *Didemnum*. This designation has since been accepted by ascidian taxonomists. Hartmeyer, 1909, also pointed out that four species of *Leptoclinum*, namely *maculosum*, *asperum*, *durum* and *fulgens* are congeneric with *D. candidum*, a view which I fully support.

5. In view of the arguments presented before (Rowe, 1966b) and above (1,2), and in order to restrict the use of the name *Leptoclinum* in a way that further confusion can be avoided and the generic name *Diplosoma* not threatened, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is requested:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Leptoclinum* Milne Edwards, 1841 and, having done so, to designate *Leptoclinum fulgens* Milne Edwards, 1841, to be the type species of that genus.
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Diplosoma* MacDonald, 1859 (gender: neuter) type species, by monotypy, *Diplosoma rayneri* MacDonald, 1859;
 - (b) *Leptoclinum* Milne Edwards, 1841 (gender: neuter) type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) above, *Leptoclinum fulgens* Milne Edwards, 1841;
 - (c) *Didemnum* Savigny, 1816 (gender: neuter) type species, by subsequent designation by Hartmeyer, 1909, *Didemnum candidum* Savigny, 1816;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *listerianum* Milne Edwards, 1841 as published in the binomen *Leptoclinum listerianum* (the valid name at the date of this application of the type species of *Diplosoma* MacDonald, 1859);
 - (b) *fulgens* Milne Edwards, 1841, as published in the binomen *Leptoclinum fulgens* (specific name of the type species of *Leptoclinum* Milne Edwards, 1841);
 - (c) *candidum* Savigny, 1816, as published in the binomen *Didemnum candidum* (specific name of the type species of *Didemnum* Savigny, 1816).

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